



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

March 2020

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers to  
our meetings and events

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## The Isolated Season

With the restrictions resulting from a global pandemic, we've found ourselves relatively isolated. Many people are finding great resources online to fill their time. Some people continue to pray. Our public vigil for 40 Days for Life was ended, but we continue to pray wherever we are. We would love to see people sign up using the [online vigil calendar](#) so we know when people are praying.

The Unplanned film showings were going great. We are glad we showed it so many times before things became more isolated.

If you signed up for the online pro-life training course, this would be a great time to go through it.

Please pray that someone will help fill our need for our one open board position.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

# Upcoming Events



**Second Tuesdays**

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Fourth Tuesdays**

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays)  
& CFLI Working Meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!  
**Where:** Online options being pursued.  
**More info:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**Feb 26 – Apr 5**

1-hour time slots  
24 hours/day

**40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil**

Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil!  
**Where:** Pray where you are  
**More info:** <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/>

**Sun, Apr 5**  
**CALLED OFF**

**40 Days for Life Closing Rally**

We will not have our normal rally, due to public restrictions.

**In-person gatherings called off until further notice!**

**June – July**

Thursdays,

*(assuming gathering limits are lifted by June)*

**Pro-Life Apologetics Class!**

We plan to offer a pro-life apologetics class where we will step through the Equal Rights Institute’s Equipped for Life class! It’s an amazing course that many of our members already have access to online. We recognize the added benefit of watching the course together, discussing what we learned, and a chance to practice what we’ve learned.

UPDATE: We can’t be sure whether this will happen in June and July or at some later date. We are committed to doing this. So we will know more once the pandemic situation is no longer a concern.



## Essential Services Only?

Planned Parenthood (PP) has continued to stay open while most other businesses have closed. And some of their sites have seen a massive increase in business. Council Bluffs has so many clients going to Planned Parenthood that their clients are even trying to park at the pro-life center across the street! We try not to use parking lots of businesses that we aren't doing business with, but that doesn't seem to concern PP's clients.

This is often a busy time of year for PP and other abortion providers. But the uncertainty of whether they will remain open due to virus concerns puts women in crisis mode, and PP exploits people in crisis. Decisions get made more quickly and often out of fear. So, women are rushing to PP, and PP doesn't want to miss out on the business.

They know abortions are only able to be done within a limited window of opportunity. They treat this as a critical service. Some states have made it explicitly clear

that elective abortions are NOT essential healthcare.

PP has opposed such orders in some cases, and some PP affiliates are challenging such orders in court. They are challenging the orders in Iowa. Some states have governors who have made it very clear that they side with PP on abortion. Those states explicitly declared elective abortions as essential.

Sadly, PP has lots of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) like face masks that are in high demand in hospitals. Even my dentist was contacted for any spare PPE she could spare for a local hospital. But PP not only fails to offer theirs, but they have even asked for donations of PPE from others!

PP has a total disregard for the medical field and works against the public's best interests.





## Government Update

### Iowa

Iowa put an end to surgical abortions during the COVID-19 crisis. We hope abortion providers adhere to such orders.

We should note that they have mostly transitioned to webcam abortions which use RU-486 pills. They will push even more in that direction with these orders. The pills also save them money and allow their clients to be offsite at the time any complications arise. That makes it easier for them to simply direct their clients to real hospitals, since PP can't address many of the life-threatening problems they cause.

Some people think pro-life lawmakers are taking advantage of a crisis situation by trying to use it as an excuse to end abortions. But we know that it just pushes PP to adapt. Since PP has already resorted to pills and technology, it doesn't seem like pro-lifers gain much, if any edge by trying to exploit the crisis. The orders are legitimate.

The Iowa legislature took a recess as a result of the pandemic. We hope the life amendment gets passed whenever they resume. It's another reason it's nice to see things advance early in a session, rather than waiting for the last minute.

The Iowa legislature is trying to pass the Life Amendment. It states, "**We the people of Iowa declare: Nothing in the Constitution shall be construed to recognize, grant, or secure a right to abortion or require the public funding of it.**"

Many people misunderstand what it intends to do. We went into some details in past newsletters. It remains important that we help people understand that this amendment would bring neutrality to the state constitution, and not some bias one way or the other.

### Colorado

The state of Colorado became the 22<sup>nd</sup> state that will not have the death penalty for crimes committed after July 1 of this year. Their governor also commuted the sentences of the three people who were on death row in that state.

The state was already not executing anyone after a prior stay on executions was put in effect. But this will prevent any new death sentences, assuming no one commits a crime prior to July that could yield such a sentence.

### Federal

The federal government spent some effort to deal with the virus pandemic. There was an effort to tie funds for Planned Parenthood into the must-pass legislation. It didn't end up in the final bill that was passed.



## PP Lawsuit in Iowa

As mentioned on an earlier page, Planned Parenthood (PP) is part of a lawsuit against the State of Iowa claiming that the governor's order to cease performing non-essential services is unconstitutional. PP joins with the Emma Goldman abortion provider in Iowa City and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in this lawsuit.

They think they are being singled out, even though the order affects much more than just abortion providers. The abortion providers claim that abortions don't use the N95 masks. But as the image earlier in this newsletter reveals, there are PP affiliates seeking masks and other protective equipment. Although abortions might not use that particular mask under normal circumstances, if the employees in the procedure room who see patient after patient aren't protecting themselves and their patients under these circumstances, that's EXACTLY what the order was trying to prevent! They are admitting that they have no concern about public health in their basis for their lawsuit.

None of the abortion businesses in Iowa can provide any record of meeting any minimum health standards, since our state does not inspect abortion providers. I searched the state database months ago for each abortion provider that happen to appear in this new lawsuit, and none of them had any inspection records.

If we look at the records of abortion providers in other states, including other PP affiliates, we see numerous violations of health codes. Many violations arise from the lack of proper sterilization of instruments between patients. Again, this is unacceptable in a time of a pandemic!

Very sadly, a judge in Texas ruled that abortions can continue in the midst of the pandemic. Considering that the Iowa lawsuit is based in Johnson County, they have chosen an area that's very supportive of abortion. So, it's possible to see a similar ruling here. All it takes is for a judge to put a stay on the order as it applies to the abortionists, and then if a judge rules in their favor,

they continue to do business. Appeals take time. Appeals could go either way. But we know that the Iowa Supreme Court has justices who have previously ruled in favor of the abortion industry. That's why the Life Amendment became a bill.

The abortion industry knows how to play the system. That's how they continue to operate with little to no regulation. This is also why elections matter, in good times and in bad. Yet, we can't just depend on the government to make the difference.

In this case, it's not even about trying to stop abortions. This is about the health and wellbeing of everyone. That's why all sorts of businesses and medical professionals have adhered to these orders already. We want the best for people. We oppose the efforts for organizations that seem to oppose proper health precautions for such times as these. Real healthcare organizations would seek to limit the spread of disease, rather than making money at the expense of public health.



## Planting Seeds

40 Days for Life made the call to end our public prayer vigils in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope people have continued to pray for an end to abortion. We know PP remains open and in many places in the country they continue to kill children in large numbers.

Some people who try to give up something for Lent found themselves giving up much more this year. We encourage fasting, yet this Lent has brought fasting to a new level. It's less of a fast if you can't do something. But if you embrace the limits and find ways to choose restrictions of your own, it really builds a pattern of fasting.

Remember to fill the emptiness with something of God. If we create a hole and leave it that way, lots of things try to fill in the gaps. Praying and almsgiving are both

great ways to fill in the gaps of fasting.

I am reusing the photo I used last month. Having visited the Judean Desert and the Dead Sea in February, I expected a wasteland, but saw it coming to life. The tough times in the Bible are always followed by thriving; you just have to keep reading.

As we find ourselves in what seems like a vast desert right now, consider the thriving that can result. But thriving doesn't happen on its own. Plants don't just sprout out of arid soil when it rains enough. Seeds had to fall on that rocky ground.

What seeds have you laid in the pro-life movement? Do you share pro-life videos and articles that are likely to convert people on the subject? Keep in mind what it's like to think abortion is okay. If a video

or article is overly negative toward people who think abortion is okay, then such resources are far less likely to convert people on the subject.

I remember a conversation with someone who didn't claim to be on either side of the issue recently. I had a friend with me. Partway through the conversation, I brought up how people who support abortion think they are being reasonable, but often don't think through the full consequences of what their worldview would imply. I provided one of the weaker but easy to describe situations that most abortion advocates haven't heard before. She had me repeat what I said and jotted down what I said. I don't have to convert everyone, but I hope to plant seeds to make them think about the matter more.

## Pro-Life Challenge



### Prayers

Please pray for God to work in the lives people.

In particular:  
 Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);  
 Çantana (pro-lifer);  
 St. Louis, MO PP;  
 State of Iowa

## VOLUNTEER



### Help Us!

Use your skills to help pro-life efforts, and invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. Many hands make for light work!



## Changing Plans

We cancelled our public 40 Days for Life prayer vigil and the closing rally. Things have gotten a little out of sorts.

We are uncertain about the timing of our pro-life apologetics class. Many of you know we've tried to promote the online version of this course within the last several months. Then we were just starting to promote our training sessions where we will enable you to learn more thoroughly by trying out what you learned and discussing what you've learned. We still plan to provide these opportunities, but the dates may change. For anyone who has access to the online course, we strongly encourage you to go through it, now that you probably have more time on your hands.

For people who haven't signed up for the online course, check out this video and consider whether you've ever heard arguments or reasoning like this before.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FwNycVQd\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FwNycVQd_k)

We will try to communicate any other changes to our activities as they occur. This could affect our annual fundraising efforts. Like many organizations, our main fundraiser is very likely going to be cancelled or greatly diminished as a result of limitations on public gatherings. For the people who can afford to help us out in tough times, we appreciate your support. For people who cannot, we hope you remember us when things recover.

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## Spread the Word!

Do you know other pro-life people who might like to subscribe to this newsletter?

- Tell them about it
- Forward a copy to them
- Print a copy to hand to friends

Do you have ideas you want discussed in future issues? Contact us with your suggestion. We may consider including your article if you prefer to write your own.

Did you spot some issues with this newsletter that really bug you? Then perhaps you'd like to help edit it. Contact us to see how you can help.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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